DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Shaw Building, Rochford Street
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island
C1A 7N8

No. 32
June
1987

ECONOMICS, STATISTICS AND FISCAL ANALYSIS DIVISION

ECONOMIC TRENDS

A FIRST LOOK AT THE 1986 CENSUS

1. Introduction

Final population counts from the 1986 Census were released on April 13, 1987 by Statistics Canada. These official population counts for June 3, 1986 indicate that there were 126,646 individuals residing on Prince Edward Island that year, an increase of 4,140 from the 1981 Census. Over the next two years more specific statistics will become available. The initial census figures provide an opportunity to analyse population growth and movement in the various regions of Prince Edward Island. This paper will take a brief look at these factors and highlight what trends arise from the Census figures.

2. Population Growth in Canada

The population of Canada stood at 25,354,064 as of June 3, 1986. This represents an increase of 4.2 percent over the 1981 level, down from the 5.9 percent growth for the 1976-1981 period. Historical growth rates for the five year periods

Table 1

HISTORICAL GROWTH RATES

% Change 5 Years

	1951-56	1956-61	1961-66	1966-71	1971-76	1976-81	1981-86
Canada	14.8	13.4	9.7	7.8	6.6	5.9	4.2
Newfoundland	14.9	10.4	7.8	5.8	6.8	1.8	0.1
Prince Edward Island	0.9	5.3	3.7	2.9	5.9	3.6	3.4
Nova Scotia	8.1	6.1	2.6	4.4	5.0	2.3	3.0
New Brunswick	7.5	7.8	3.2	2.9	6.7	2.8	2.0
Quebec	14.1	13.6	8.8	4.3	3.4	3.3	1.6
Ontario	17.6	15.4	11.6	10.7	7.3	4.4	5.7
Manitoba	9.5	8.4	4.5	2.6	2.3	0.5	4.4
Saskatchewan	5.9	5.1	3.3	-3.1	-0.5	5.1	4.3
Alberta	19.5	18.6	9.8	11.3	12.9	21.7	6.1
British Columbia	20.0	16.5	15.0	16.6	12.9	11.3	5.3

from 1951 to 1986 for Canada and the Provinces are displayed in Table 1. Progressively lower growth rates for Canada can be observed in the 1951-86 figures. Prince Edward Island's population growth for 1981-86, at 3.4 percent, was slightly below the national average of 4.2 percent. Alberta with a growth rate of 6.1 percent for this period, was the fastest growing province but failed to maintain it's previous double digit growth rate. Ontario, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia were the only provinces to increase their growth rates when compared to the 1976-81 period. They increased by 5.7, 4.4, and 3.0 percent respectively in the 1981-86 period as compared to 4.4, 0.5 and 2.3 percent in the 1976-81 period.

Prince Edward Island's population increase of 3.4 percent was higher than that of all Provinces east of Ontario. Newfoundland at 0.1 percent had the dubious distinction of having the lowest rate of population growth in the country.

Table 2

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADIAN POPULATION GROWTH

1976-81 and 1981-86

	% Population 1981	% Population 1986	% Share of Growth 1976-81	% Share of Growth 1981-86
Nfld.	2.3	2.2	0.7	0.1
P.E.I.	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4
N.S.	3.5	3.4	1.4	2.5
N.B.	2.9	2.8	1.4	1.4
Que.	26.4	25.8	15.1	10.1
Ont.	35.4	35.9	26.7	48.3
Man.	4.2	4.2	0.3	4.5
Sask.	4.0	4.0	3.5	4.1
Alta.	9.2	9.4	29.6	13.6
B.C.	11.3	11.4	20.6	14.3
Total	99.7	99.7	99.5	99.3

Table 2 shows the percentage distribution of the total Canadian population by Province, 1981 and 1986, and the contribution to total Canadian population growth of each of the provinces for 1976-81 and 1981-86. In 1986 Quebec and Ontario accounted for 61.7 percent of the population in Canada while Prince Edward Island supplied .5 percent of the total. The

most notable distribution shift 1981-1986 was seen in the case where Quebec's share fell by 0.6 percent and Ontario's increased by 0.5 percent.

Alberta and British Columbia accounted for 50.2 percent of all Canadian growth in the 1976-81 period whereas in the 1981-86 period Ontario alone accounted for 48.3 percent of national growth. The Provinces which suffered the greatest reversals in population growth during this latter period were British Columbia, Alberta, and Quebec whose share of growth fell by 6.3, 16.0 and 5.0 percent respectively while Ontario's share mushroomed by 21.6 percent.

Knowing the birth and death statistics for the periods of 1976-1981 and 1981-1986 one can estimate the net migration by province and these statistics are provided in Table 3. One can

Table 3

NET MIGRATION 1976-81, 1981-86,

ESTIMATED FROM 1981 CENSUS

	1976-81	1981-86
Newfoundland	(29,200)	(25,943)
Prince Edward Island	(400)	(255)
Nova Scotia	(9,000)	(592)
New Brunswick	(10,200)	(11,664)
Quebec	(60,500)	(119,989)
Ontario	54,900	170,381
Manitoba	(35,900)	5,060
Saskatchewan	2,300	(7,663)
Alberta	280,200	(22,131)
British Columbia	186,400	30,151
Total	378,600	17,345

(Estimated as the residual from Birth and Death Statistics)

see from these figures that there was a significant change in migration patterns in the latter period. Ontario had a net inflow of 170,400 people over the 1981-1986 period as compared to an inflow of 54,900 for 1976-81. Conversely during the 1976-1981 years the two most western provinces, Alberta and British Columbia, gained the majority of migrants. This westward movement of people clearly reversed during 1981-86 and now seems to be heading primarily to Ontario, although British Columbia (at

30,200) and Manitoba (at 5,100) did enjoy modest gains. The following five provinces provided the largest portion of net out migrants: Quebec -120,000, Newfoundland -26,000, Alberta -22,100, New Brunswick -11,700 and Saskatchewan -7,700. Prince Edward Island experienced negligible net out migration of -255 for this five year period, a slight improvement from -400 in the 1976-81 period.

Statistics Canada estimates the population of the various provinces in the intercensal years, relying on interprovincial migration data, as well as statistics on births, deaths and international migration. Table 4 enables one to compare their estimates with the Census results for 1986. From the data in this table one can see that for Canada as a whole the Census count was 0.93 percent under Statistics Canada estimates for 1986.

Table 4

STATISTICS CANADA ESTIMATES AND

FINAL CENSUS RESULTS COMPARISON

	June 1,1986 Preliminary Post-Censal Estimate ('000)	June 3, 1986 Final Population Count ('000)	% Differences
Canada	25591.1	25354.064	-0.93
Newfoundland	580.2	568.349	-2.04
Prince Edward Island	128.1	126.646	-1.14
Nova Scotia	883.8	873.199	-1.20
New Brunswick	721.1	710.422	-1.48
Quebec	6627.2	6540.276	-1.31
Ontario	9181.9	9113.515	-0.74
Manitoba	1078.6	1071.232	-0.68
Saskatchewan	1021.0	1010.198	-1.06
Alberta	2389.5	2375.278	-0.60
British Columbia	2905.9	2889.207	-0.57
Yukon	22.9	23.504	2.64
Northwest Territories	50.9	52.238	2.63

The Census count was significantly different for some provincial estimates, the extremes being Newfoundland at -2.04 percent and the Yukon which was 2.64 percent higher. The Canadian difference of -0.93 percent in 1986 compares to -0.64 percent for the 1981 Census results. The corresponding difference for Prince Edward Island was -1.14 percent in 1986 as compared to -1.44 in 1981.

The estimated June 1986 population for P.E.I. was 128,100 and the Final Census Count 126,646.

3. Population Statistics for Prince Edward Island

Final Census results for Prince Edward Island of 126,646 mean that population estimates for the years 1982-1985 will require revision. A preliminary estimate of these statistics is provided in Table 5. From this table one can see that Prince

Table 5

ESTIMATED ANNUAL POPULATION FIGURES, 1976-86,

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

	('000)	% Chg.
1976	118.2	
1977	119.3	0.9
1978	121.0	1.4
1979	122.0	0.8
1980	122.8	0.7
1981	122.5	-0.2
1982	122.4	-0.1
1983	123.7	1.1
1984	125.0	1.1
1985	126.2	1.0
1986	126.6	0.3

Source: Statistics Canada 91-518, 1981 & 1986 Censuses and P.E.I. Dept. of Finance estimates.

Edward Island has grown on average 0.68 percent per year for the 1981-1986 period as compared to 0.72 percent for the 1976-1981 period. One contributing factor for the slight decline in the average rate of growth for the latest period is that the population increases from natural factors, the number of births minus the number of deaths, declined from 4,600 in the 1976-1981 period to 4,400 in the 1981-1986 period.

4. Subprovincial Population Statistics

Table 6

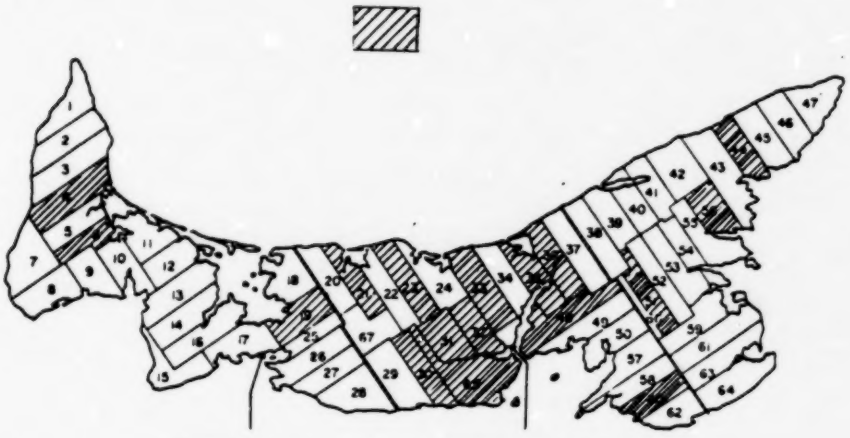
POPULATION GROWTH BY COUNTY,

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, PERCENT

	1951-56	1956-61	1961-66	1966-71	1971-76	1976-81	1981-86
Kings	-0.5	0.2	0.7	2.3	0.8	3.4	1.5
Prince	0.7	7.6	4.4	-1.4	2.7	-1.0	2.0
Queens	1.6	5.1	4.8	6.9	10.3	7.2	4.9
P.E.I.	0.9	5.4	3.7	2.9	5.9	3.6	3.4

Table 6 provides population growth rates since 1951 for the three counties of Prince Edward Island. This table indicates that the population growth within Prince Edward Island has been significantly different for each County. Queens County continues to lead all counties in the rate of population growth even though its growth rate has declined sharply for 1981-86. All three counties experienced positive growth for the 1981-86 period with Queen's, at 4.9 percent the greatest, followed by Prince at 2.0 percent and Kings at 1.5 percent.

Map 1: 1981-86 Areas That Grew By 5 Percent or More



Map 1 identifies the Census subdivisions on Prince Edward Island which experienced growth of more than 5 percent during the 1981 to 1986 period. For this exercise all communities, except for the Charlottetown Area, have been included in their relevant Lot to arrive at Census Sub- division population totals. The Charlottetown Area consists of Charlottetown, Sherwood, Parkdale, Hillsborough Park, West Royalty, East Royalty and Queen's Royalty. The population of the area surrounding greater Charlottetown, consisting of Lots 30, 31, 32, 33, 48 and 65 and the incorporated communities therein, grew by 9.9 percent during this period.

It should be noted that there were 12 additional incorporated communities on Prince Edward Island for the 1986 Census than was the case for the 1981 Census. These are Brackley, Clyde River, Crossroads, Eliot River, Keppock-Kinlock, Meadowbank, Miltonvale Park, North River, Union and Winsloe surrounding Charlottetown, and Sherbrooke and Linkletter adjacent to Summerside. These newly incorporated communities in close proximity to Charlottetown, as a group, increased in population by 24.4 percent for 1981-1986. These ten new communities accounted for 37 percent of the 4,140 net increase in population on Prince Edward Island since the last Census. Rapid growth was also experienced in the new communities around Summerside.

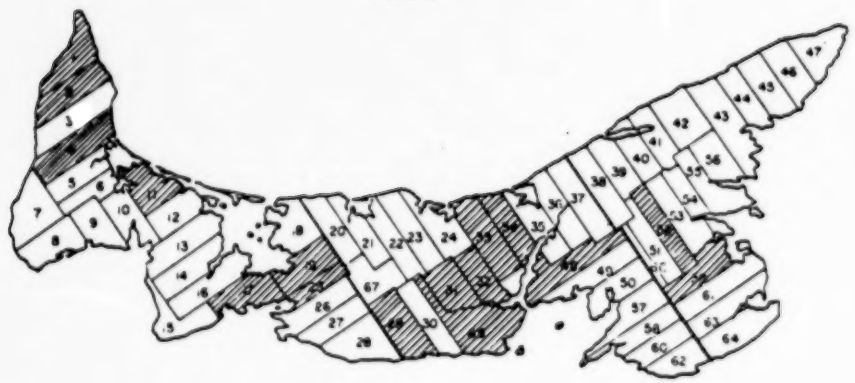
The Charlottetown Area (Charlottetown, East Royalty, West Royalty, Parkdale, Sherwood, Hillsborough Park, and Queen's Royalty) experienced population growth of 4.7 percent for 1981-1986 down slightly from the 1976-81 period when the area experienced growth of 4.8 percent. Looking at the City of Charlottetown itself one finds that it grew by 3.2 percent between 1981-86. This is a marked improvement from the 1976-81 period when the city's population declined by 10.4 percent.

A few areas in Kings and Prince Counties also increased by more than 5 percent. Perhaps most interesting of these areas is Lot 44 in Northeastern Kings County, the Census subdivision adjacent to the Town of Souris. The Town of Souris experienced a population decline of 2.0 percent for the 1981-86 period while Lot 44 grew by 8.2 percent.

Map #2 portrays those areas on Prince Edward Island whose growth rate for 1976-81 decreased by at least 5 percent relative to their growth rate between 1971-76. Map #3 is based on the same data for the 1981-86 vs 1976-81 growth rates.

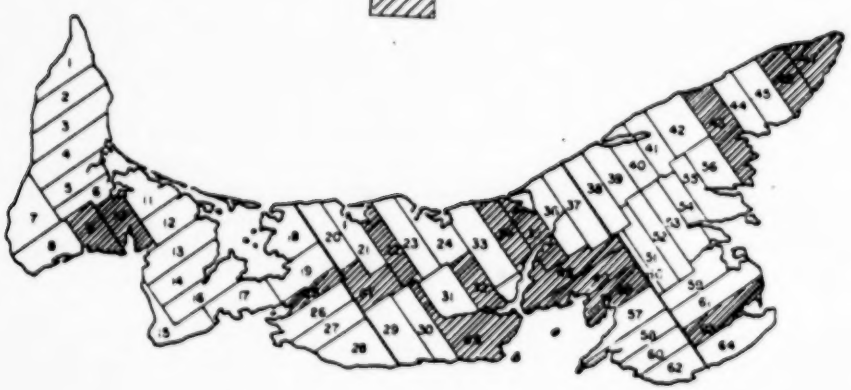
Map 2: Areas Whose Growth 1976-81 Was at Least 5 Percent

— Less Than Growth 1971-76



Map 3: Areas Whose Growth 1981-86 Was at Least 5 Percent

Less Than Growth 1976-1981



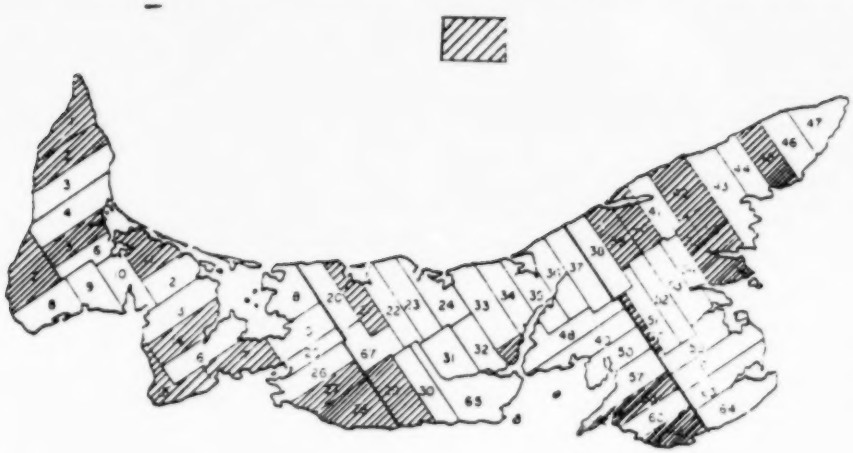
From these two maps it is possible to identify those areas which have been experiencing population growth slowdowns or losses over the past decade. Population growth for the region surrounding Charlottetown slowed between 1976-81 and 1981-86 despite its continued importance to general population growth. In 1976 the Charlottetown Area plus its surrounding area (consisting of Lots 31, 32, 33, 34, 48 and 65) was home to 41,098 people. By 1981 it had grown by 13.5 percent to reach 46,651. In 1986 this region held 49,661 residents, a further though smaller increase of 6.5 percent. Residents in the above mentioned area accounted for 39.2 percent of Prince Edward Island's total population in 1986.

The Summerside region, another major area of interest on Prince Edward Island, reversed the population decline of 2.1 percent that it had experienced in the 1976-81 period. In 1986 there were 15,614 residents in the Summerside region (Lot 17, Summerside, Wilmot, Miscouche, Sherbrooke, St. Eleanors and Linkletter), compared to 15,005 in 1981, an increase of 4.1 percent. This region formed 12.3 percent of the Island's total population in 1986.

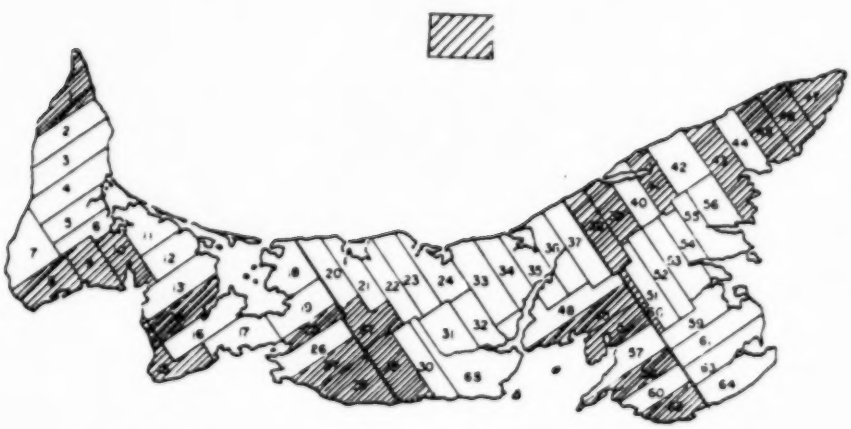
Maps #4 and #5 highlight those areas whose population suffered absolute declines in population between 1976-81 and 1981-1986. Nine of Prince County's 23 subdivisions experience population losses between 1981 and 1986, in Kings County 8 out of 21 lost population and in Queens County 6 out of 23 experienced declines.

When these two maps are compared you can identify the regions in Prince Edward Island which have experienced absolute population declines over the last decade. The more notable areas in Kings County include the Souris region and the area along the North Shore of Kings County. In Queen's County the southeastern area continues to decline. The region which encompasses Borden-Kinkora-Crapaud-Victora and the Tignish area have also suffered population losses during the past decade.

Map 4: 1976-81 Areas With Absolute Declines

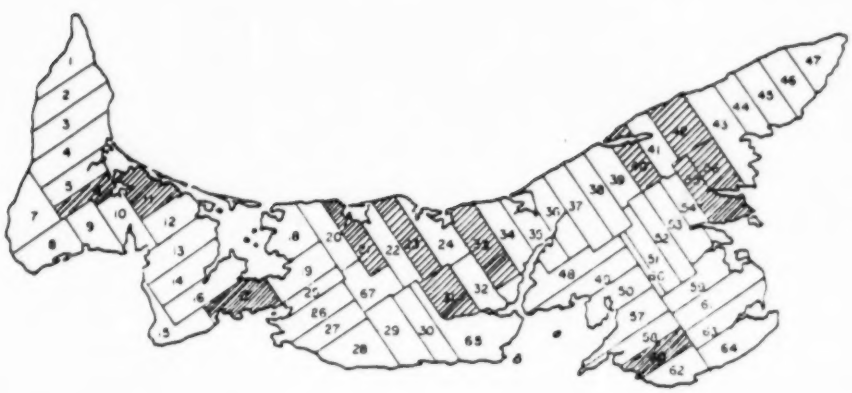


Map 5: 1981-86 Areas With Absolute Declines



Map #6 displays those areas of Prince Edward Island whose population growth rates for 1981-86 versus 1976-81 improved by 5 percent or more. There were 12 such areas across the Island. Prince County had three lots reach this standard and more specifically the Summerside area (Lot 17) which had experienced a 2.1 percent decline between 1976-81 rebounded to post a 4.1 percent increase for the 1981-86 period. In Kings County, 4 lots (40, 42, 55, and 56) all in close proximity, increased on average by 3.5 percent for 1981-86 in comparison to an average decline of 4.0 percent for the 1976-81 period. In Queen's County 5 lots attained accelerated growth of more than 5 percent with Lot 33 and Lot 31 enjoying the greatest improvements.

Map 6: Areas Whose Growth 1981-86 Was 5 Percent or More Greater Than Growth 1976-81



5. Conclusion

The 1986 Census indicates that the Western Canada population boom has subsided. The figures clearly indicate that Ontario again became the main destination of population movement in Canada. Ontario's dominance in terms of population concentration is not a new phenomenon but rather a re-emergence from the period in the late 1970's when the Western Provinces experienced an in-migration boom for a short span of time.

The 1986 Census figures reveal that although Prince Edward Island was below national growth levels, it did surpass the other Eastern Provinces (Quebec and Atlantic Provinces) in population gains. The Census also suggests that Prince Edward Island continues to be a modest net exporter of population in the 1980's, a trend that dates back to the turn of the twentieth century. However our calculations indicate that Prince Edward Island had a net less of only 255 from migration for the 1981-86 period. This represents a negligible outflow of residents from the Island

The 1986 Census indicates that the general population trends within Prince Edward Island continue to be dominated by the Charlottetown area and the region surrounding the Charlottetown Area. However its growth slowed from 1976-81 growth levels of 13.5 percent to measure 6.4 percent in 1981-1986. This 1981-86 growth rate compares with a total Prince Edward Island growth rate of 3.4 percent. Similarly Lot 17 in Prince County, which includes the Summerside Area had growth of 4.1 percent, also above the Island total. In terms of absolute declines there were several regions which lost population. The most notable regions include: the North Shore and Eastern Region of Kings County, the Southern Queens area, the area surrounding Borden-Kinkora-Crapaud-Victoria, the Southwestern area of Prince County and the Tignish region. These regions lost in total about 700 people since the 1981 Census. The 1986 Census thus indicates that the trend towards urban oriented growth and decline of rural areas is continuing.